

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Uttar Pradesh (Central)	881.03	994.05	113.02
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	938.50	1038.74	100.24
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	898.62	981.81	89.19

@ The prices for North and South Bihar Zones are subject to final orders of the Court in respect of purchase Tax etc. In case any amount is to be realised from the factories in the aforesaid zones of Bihar, it would have to be refunded by the concerned factories to the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund.

### Cutting of Trees

2480. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the environment has been adversely affected in tribal areas of South Bihar due to illegal deforestation;

(b) if so, the percentage of decrease in the forest cover in the State during the last two years; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to stop deforestation and the details of the talks held with the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) State of Forest Report 1995, has reported a decrease of 26 sq. km. (0.098%) in the forest cover in the 1995 assessment as compared with that in 1993 assessment in the State of Bihar. The deforestation is likely to adversely affect the environment in such tracts.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to check deforestation:

- Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has been enacted to prevent diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes without approval of the Central Government.
- Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are being enforced to check forest and wildlife offences.
- Special programmes, including Project Tiger, Project Elephant are being implemented for conservation of rare and threatened species and habitats of biological significance.
- The afforestation/reforestation and eco-development programmes are being implemented for regeneration of degraded forests including buffer areas of National Parks, Sanctuaries and Project Tiger Reserves.
- Wood substitution and fuel saving devices are promoted to substitute the use of wood, reduce consumption and prevent wastage.

- The afforestation and wastelands development programmes are also being implemented in non-forest areas to reduce pressure on the forest and wildlife habitats.

- Joint Forest Management techniques and institutions are being developed for involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies in protection and regeneration of degraded forests on usufruct sharing basis.

- The Union Government has advised State Government to make an indepth analysis of the factors contributing depletion of forest cover and make all out efforts to step up afforestation programmes.

### Quota of Foodgrains for Tribal Areas

2481. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has not been deliberately lifting the quota of foodgrains fixed for the State;

(b) whether the poor tribals in the tribal areas of Rajasthan are being supplied only 21/2 kg. foodgrains per unit instead of their quota of 10 kg. per unit;

(c) whether the Union Government have conducted any inquiry in such irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir. The Rajasthan Government has been lifting about 90% of the allocation for July 96 onwards.

(b) to (e) Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government makes bulk allocations of commodities for PDS to States/UTs. Operational aspects of the PDS such as lifting of quota of foodgrains, sub-allocations to the areas, fixing quota per unit, etc. are within the jurisdiction of the State Government/UT Administrations. State Governments have been directed to set up monitoring